

Urban surface material composition from spaceborne imaging spectroscopy data

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Knowledge for Tomorrow

Content

1. Can we map urban surface materials from space?
2. What is necessary to enhance urban surface material mapping techniques?



An aerial photograph of a city, likely Manchester, showing a dense urban landscape. A train is visible on a curved track in the center. To the right, a large, ornate cathedral with a tall spire is prominent. The city is filled with various buildings, including residential houses and commercial structures. The image is overlaid with three semi-transparent white rectangular boxes containing text.

Urban Heat Island

Hydrological Processes

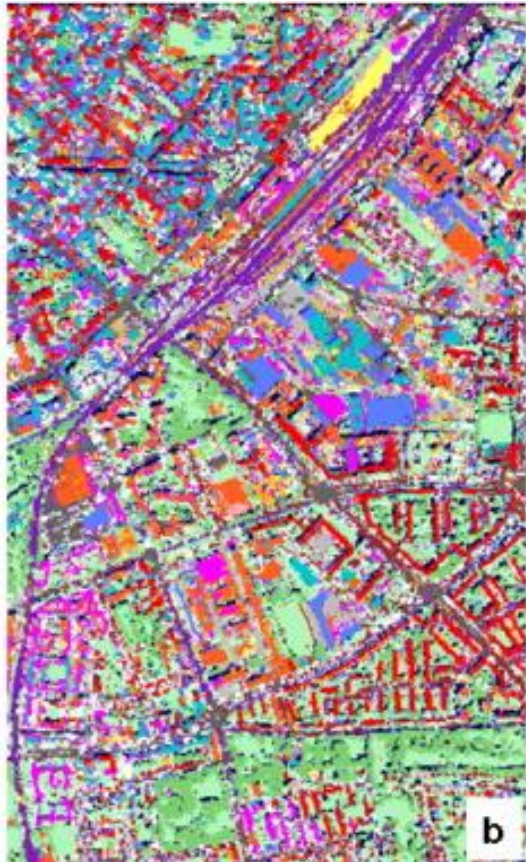
Hazardeous Materials

1. Mapping urban surface materials from space?

Challenges using imaging spectroscopy data

Airborne (4 x 4 m pixel)

Detailed material mapping: 20-40 classes



e.g.

Roessner et al. 2001

Segl et al. 2003

Franke et al. 2009

Heldens 2010

Heiden et al. 2012

Demarchi et al. 2014

Priem & Canters 2016



Modified from

Heiden et al. (2012)

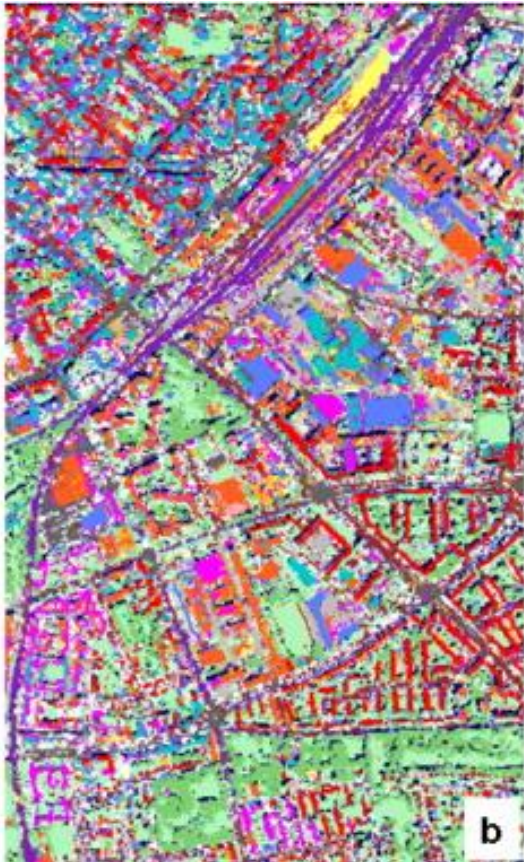


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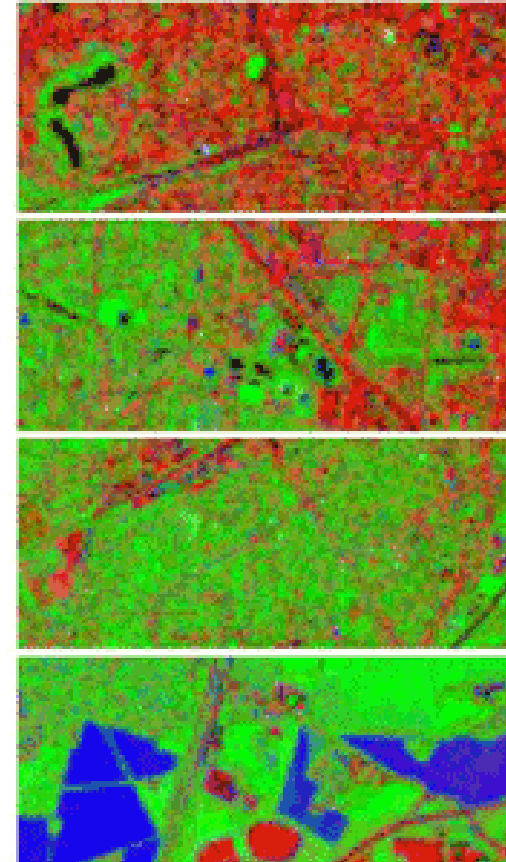


Modified from
Heiden et al. (2012)

Spaceborne (30 x 30 m pixel)

Mapping of broad categories:

Vegetation – Imperviousness – Soil (VIS)



e.g.
Weng and Lu, 2008
Duca and Del Frate, 2008;
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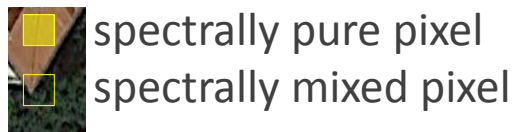
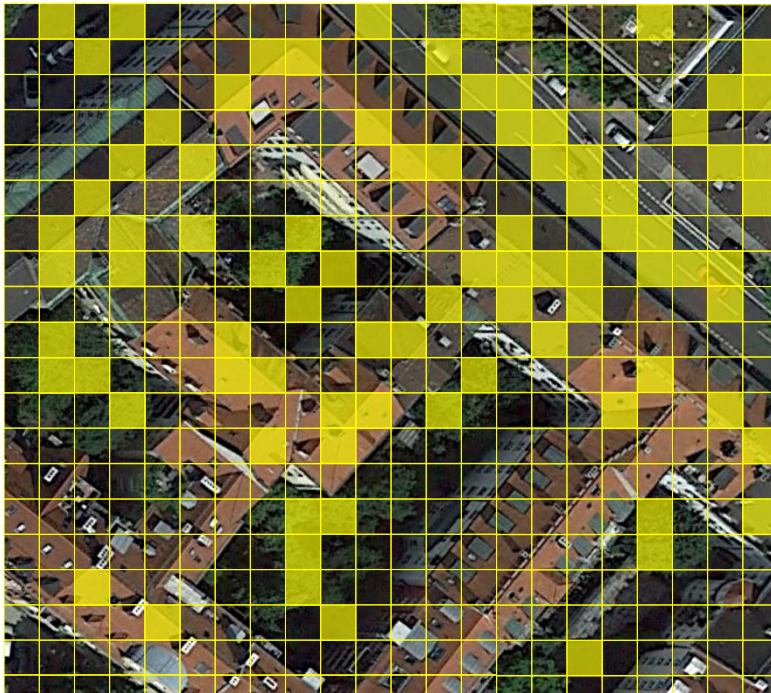
Modified from
Okujeni et al. (2015)

1. Mapping urban surface materials from space?

Challenges using imaging spectroscopy data

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Spaceborne (30 x 30 m pixel)

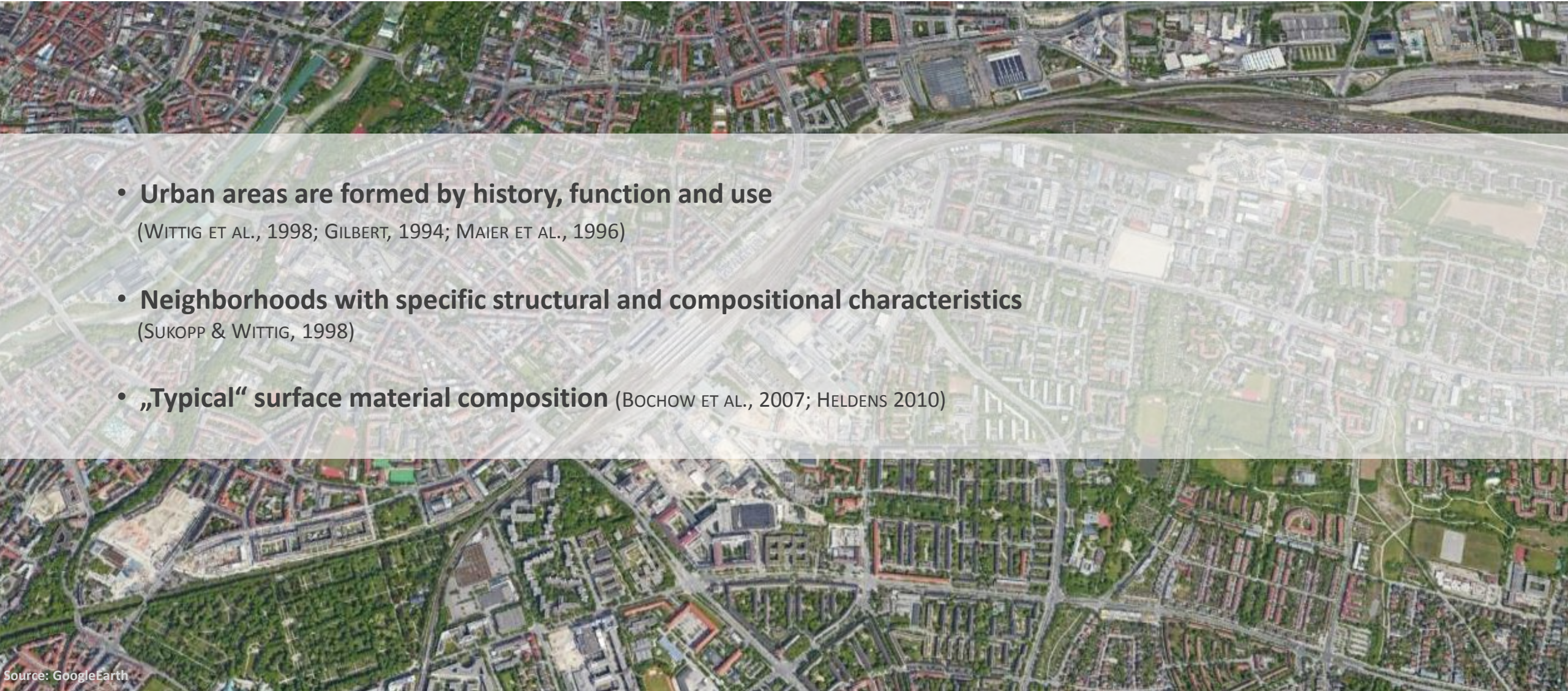
Mapping of broad categories:

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1. Mapping urban surface materials from space?

Idea

- 
- **Urban areas are formed by history, function and use**
(WITTIG ET AL., 1998; GILBERT, 1994; MAIER ET AL., 1996)
 - **Neighborhoods with specific structural and compositional characteristics**
(SUKOPP & WITTIG, 1998)
 - **„Typical“ surface material composition** (BOCHOW ET AL., 2007; HELDENS 2010)

1. Mapping urban surface materials from space?

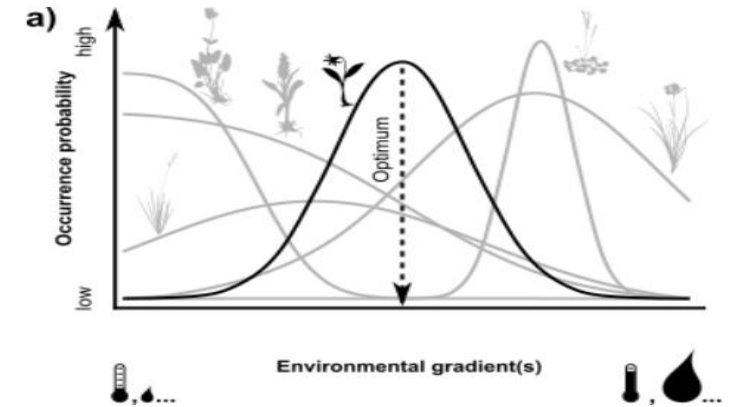
Idea – Gradient concept

Natural Ecosystem



Feilhauer, 2016

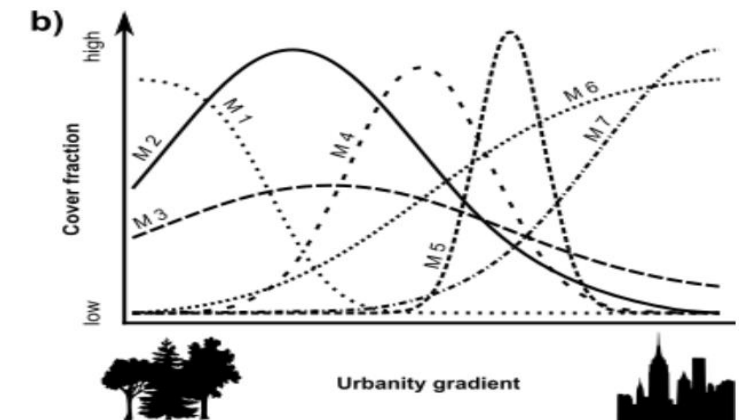
- fuzzy continuum of typical mixtures along gradients
- Optimum occurrence based on environmental conditions



Urban Areas



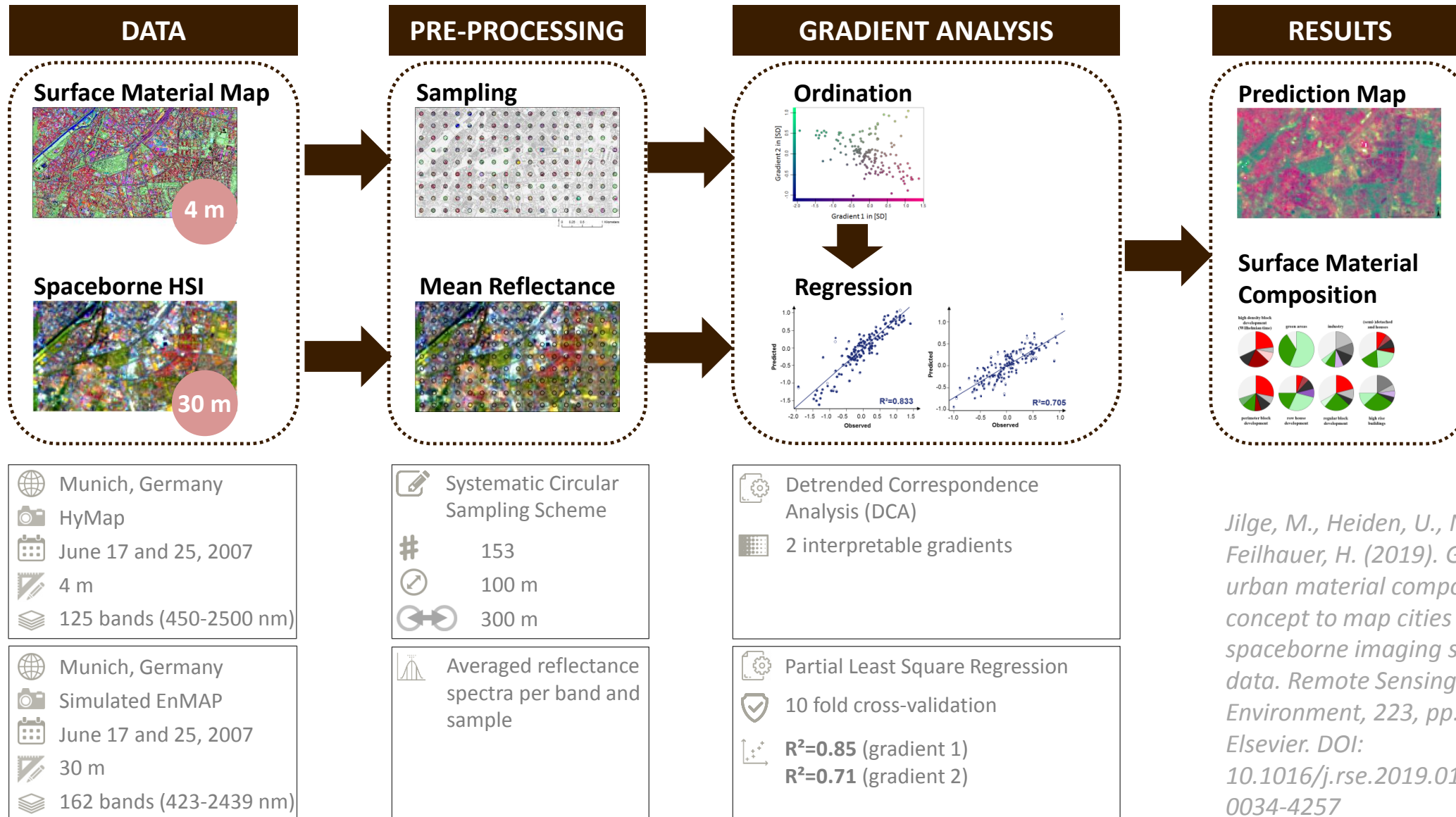
Source: <https://www.zukunft-mobilitaet.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/transect-diagramm-new-urbanism-staedtebau-andres-duany-stadtplanung.jpg>



Source: Jilge et al. (2019)

1. Mapping urban surface materials from space?

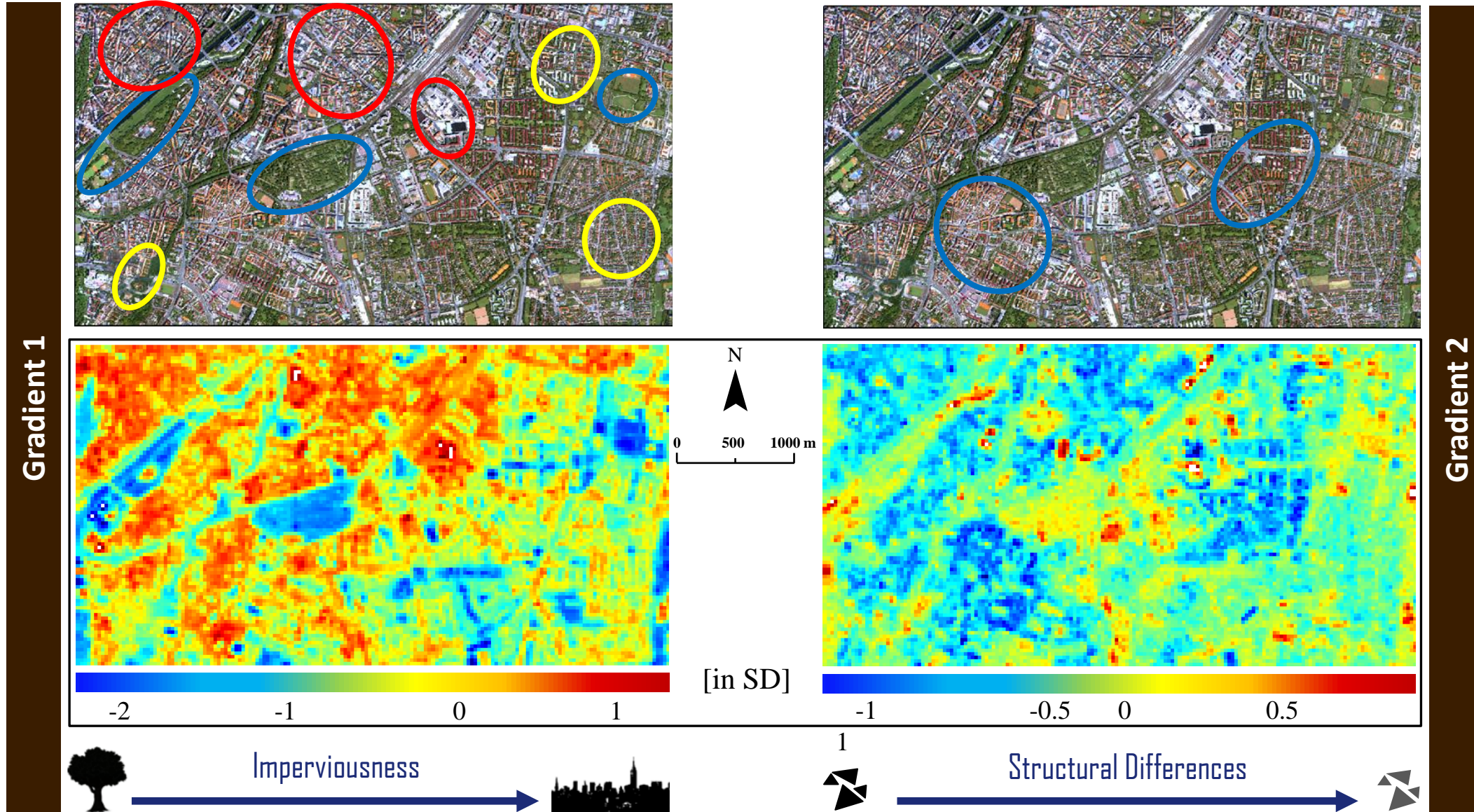
Gradient analysis - Method



Jilge, M., Heiden, U., Neumann, C., Feilhauer, H. (2019). Gradients in urban material composition: A new concept to map cities with spaceborne imaging spectroscopy data. *Remote Sensing of Environment*, 223, pp. 179-193. Elsevier. DOI: 10.1016/j.rse.2019.01.007 ISSN 0034-4257

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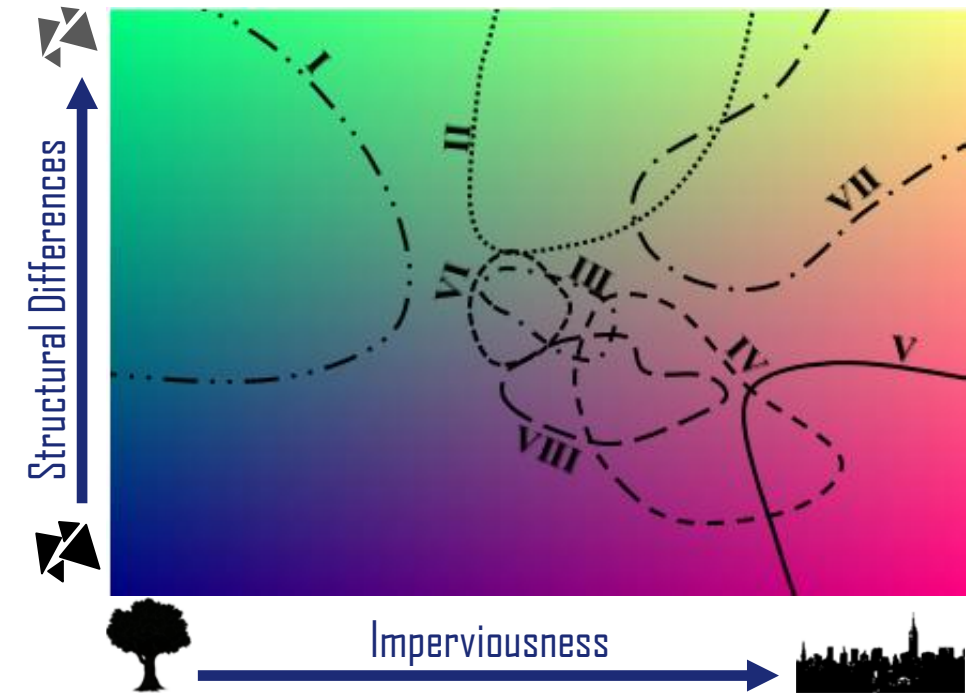
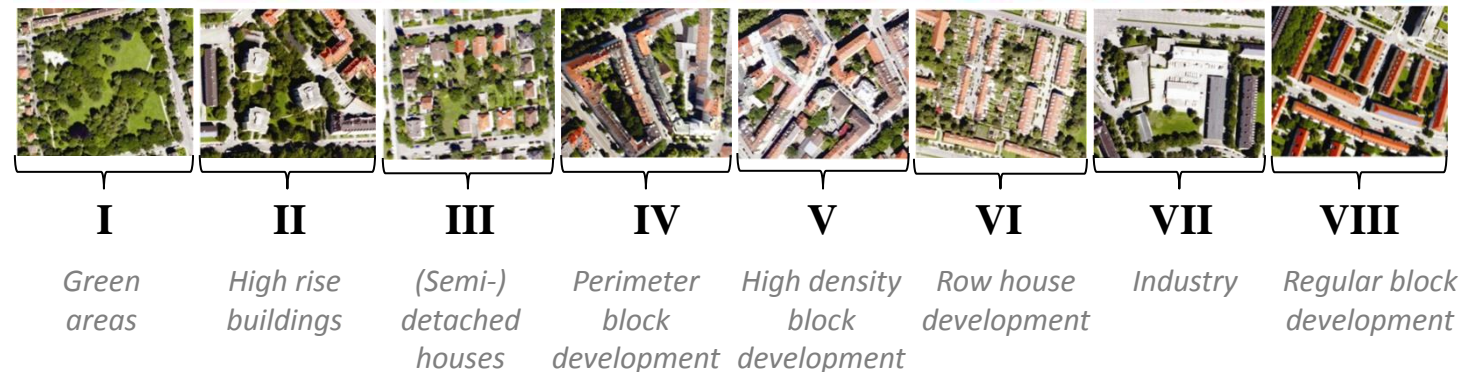
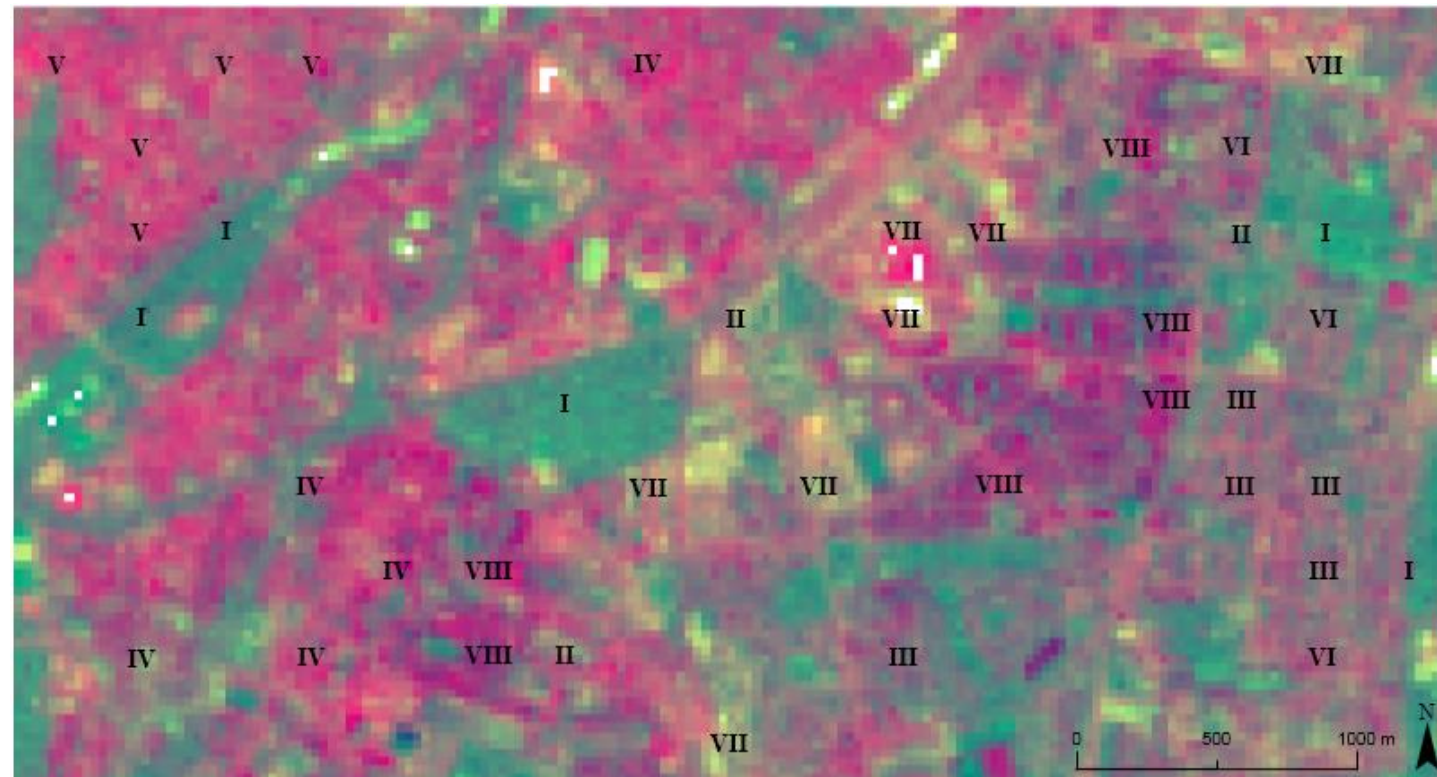
Gradient analysis – Prediction map of DCA scores



Jilge, M.,
Heiden, U.,
Neumann, C.,
Feilhauer, H.
(2019).
*Gradients in
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1. Mapping urban surface materials from space?

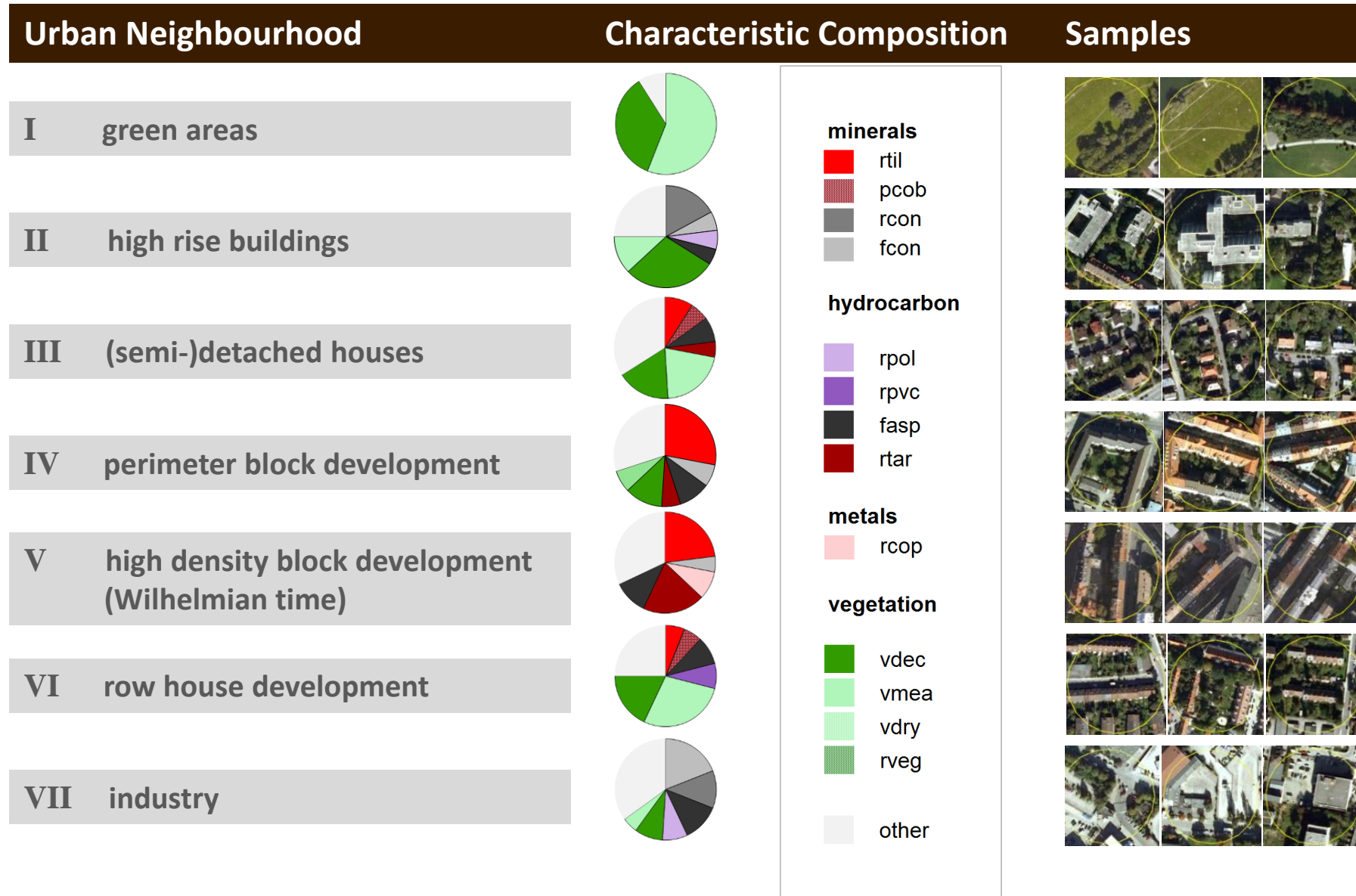
Gradient analysis – Prediction map of DCA scores (combined)



- different **material composition** marked by different shades
- patterns can be linked to urban neighbourhoods (e.g. UST)

1. Mapping urban surface materials from space?

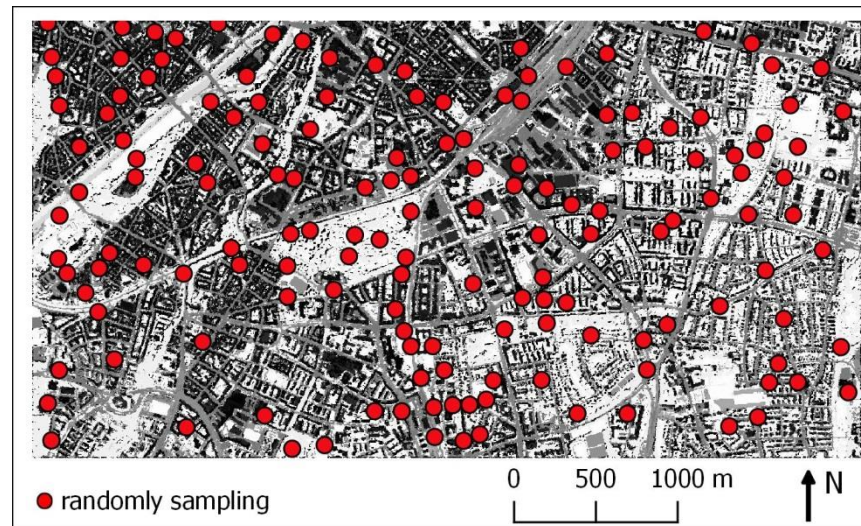
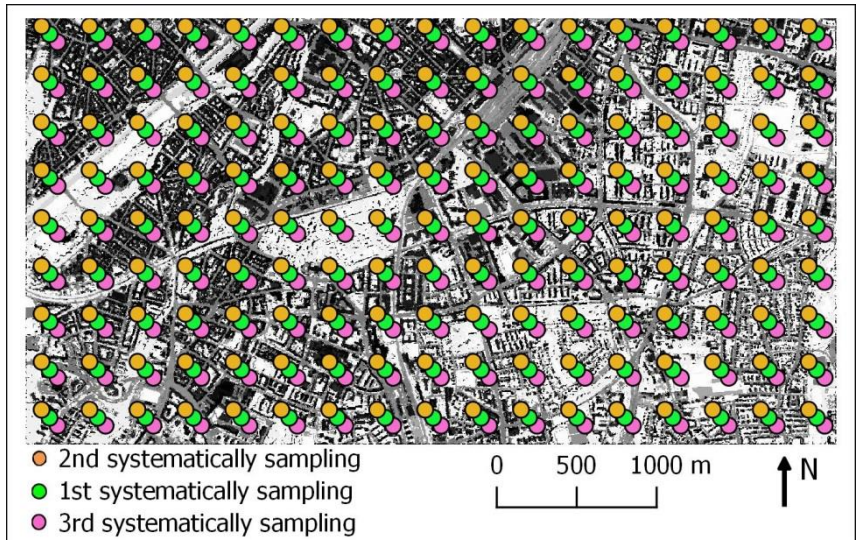
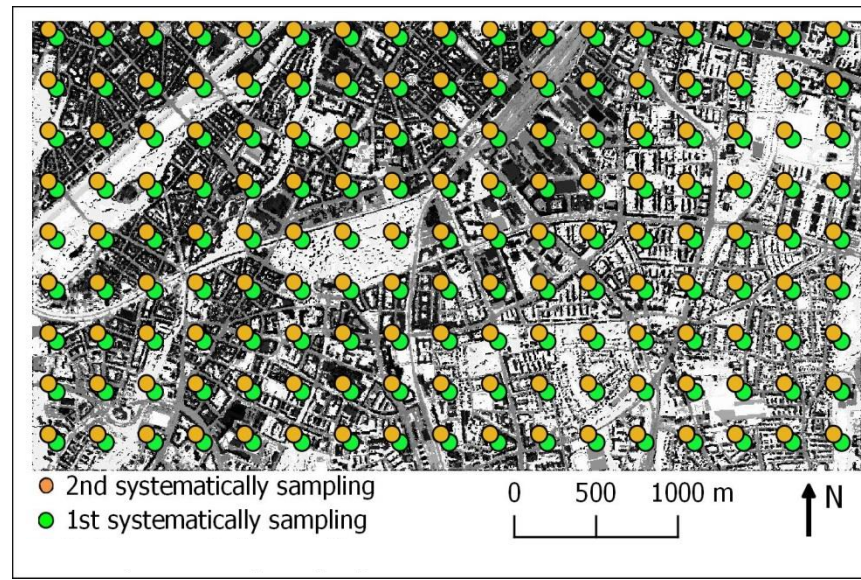
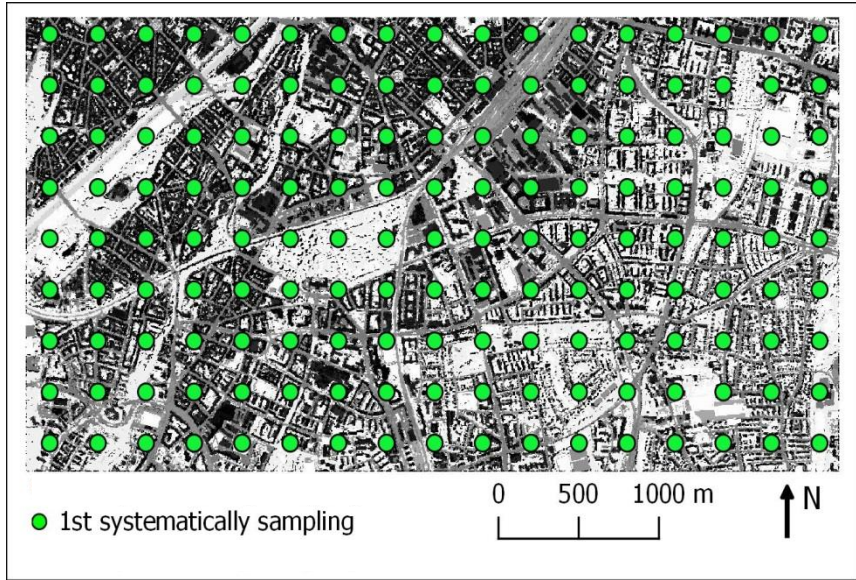
Characteristic Material Compositions



- Dominating materials per urban structure type
- Generally different material composition of USTs
- Differentiation of similar material compositions due to varying cover fractions

1. Mapping urban surface materials from space?

Way forward



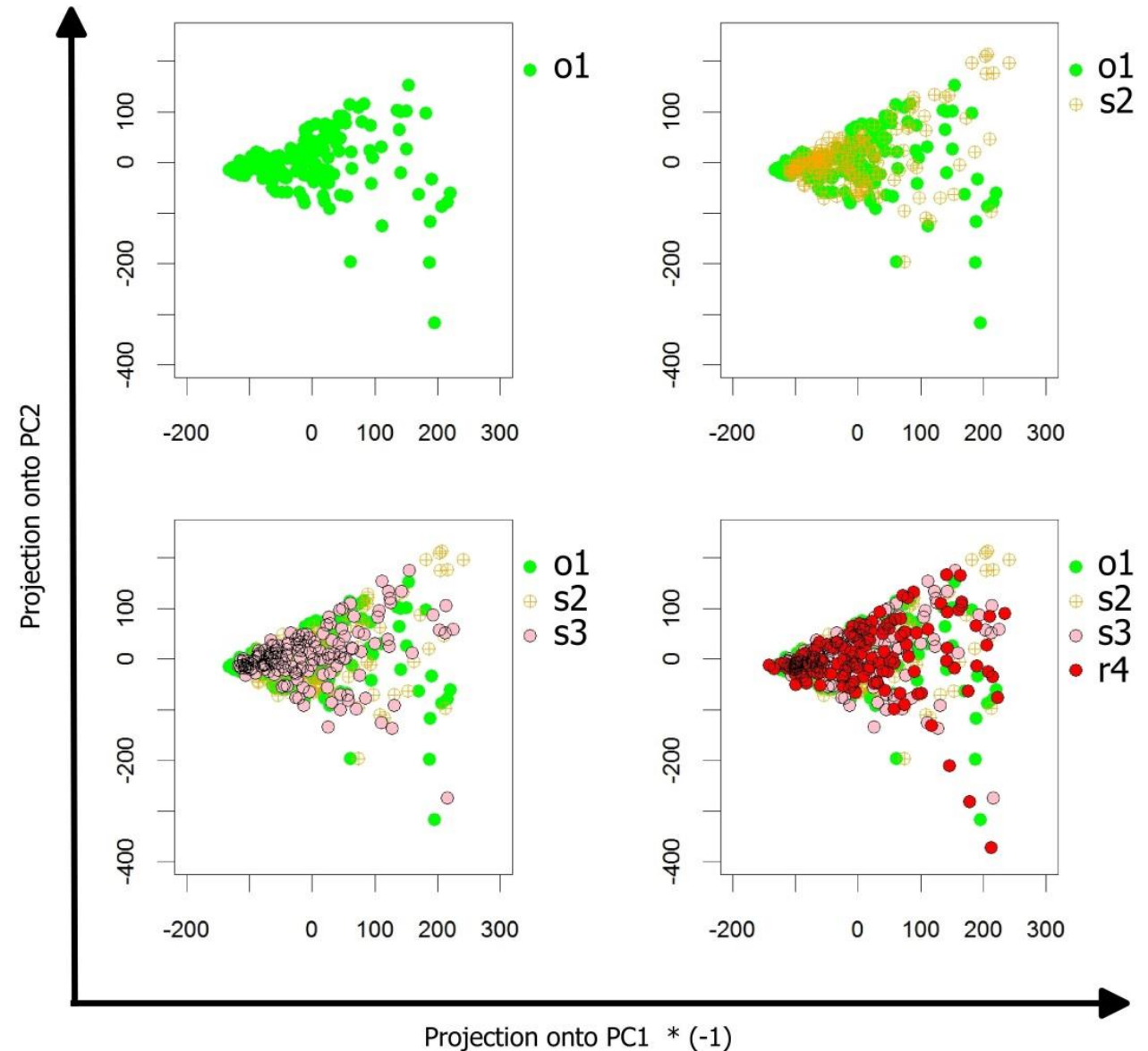
Objective:

- How does gradient space change with sampling?
- Does gradients have the same meaning/pattern?
- Can we transfer regression models to an unknown scene?

1. Mapping urban surface materials from space?

Way forward

Abbreviation	Full name	Class content (%)				Total pixels
		o1	s2	s3	r4	
rtil	roofing tiles	9	8	9	8	66886
rcon	roofing concrete	7	9	8	7	27440
ralu	aluminum	8	9	10	8	10466
rcop	copper	8	7	9	9	13366
rzin	zinc	8	9	5	9	7607
rpvc	PVC	8	8	7	9	13434
rpol	polyethylene	9	12	9	10	8625
rbit	roofing bitumen	8	10	7	9	14883
rtar	roofing tar	8	8	8	8	29249
rveg	vegetated roof	8	9	8	8	18879
rgra	roofing gravel	11	9	13	7	8206
fcon	concrete	10	8	8	8	42104
fasp	asphalt	8	8	8	8	84854
fkun	synthetic turf	9	5	15	22	3209
pcob	cobblestone	8	9	8	7	47358
prlc	loose chippings	10	8	9	7	20546
pcon	concrete slabs	8	9	9	7	11015
prail	railway tracks	7	9	7	10	10811
praiv	vegetated railway tracks	8	10	7	9	11546
bsan	siliceous sand	9	8	9	9	11765
bsoi	humous soil	6	5	11	8	2978
wriv	river	10	10	5	9	4518
wpon	pond	8	8	8	9	4691
vdec	deciduous trees	8	8	8	8	172784
vlaw	lawn	8	8	7	7	16983
vmea	meadow	9	8	8	9	87525
vdry	dry vegetation	9	8	8	8	35690



What is necessary to enhance
urban surface material mapping
techniques?



2. What is necessary to enhance urban surface material mapping techniques?

Airborne (4 x 4 m pixel)

Detailed surface material mapping



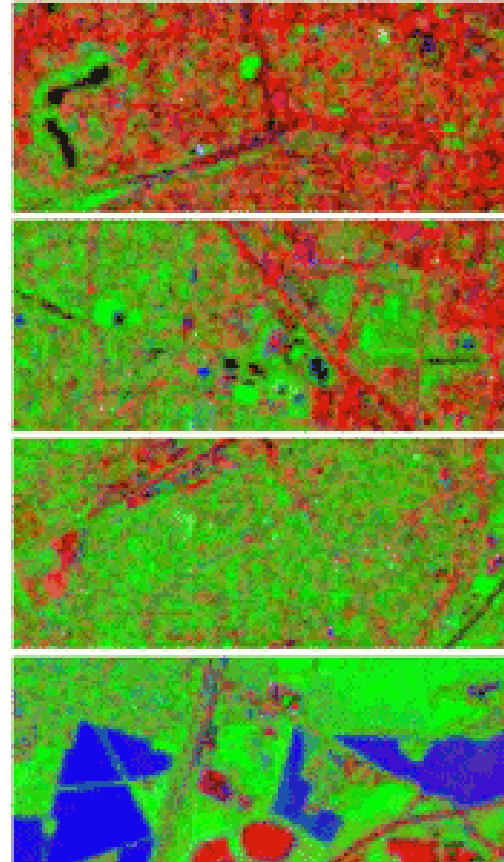
e.g.
Roessner et al. 2001
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Heldens 2010
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Priem & Canters 201



Modified
from
Heiden et al.
(2012)

Spaceborne (30 x 30 m pixel)

Mapping of broad categories:
Vegetation – Imperviousness – Soil (VIS)



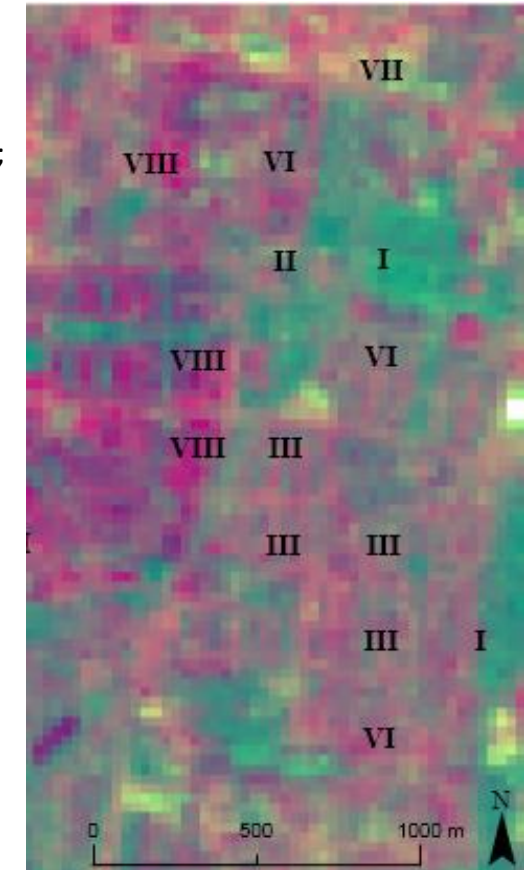
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Modified from
Okujeni et al.
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Mapping of surface
Material Compositions



e.g.
Jilge et al., 2019
Ji et al., (in prep.)

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2. What is necessary to enhance urban surface material mapping techniques?

A common training data base – Urban spectral library

Airborne (4 x 4 m pixel)

Detailed surface material mapping



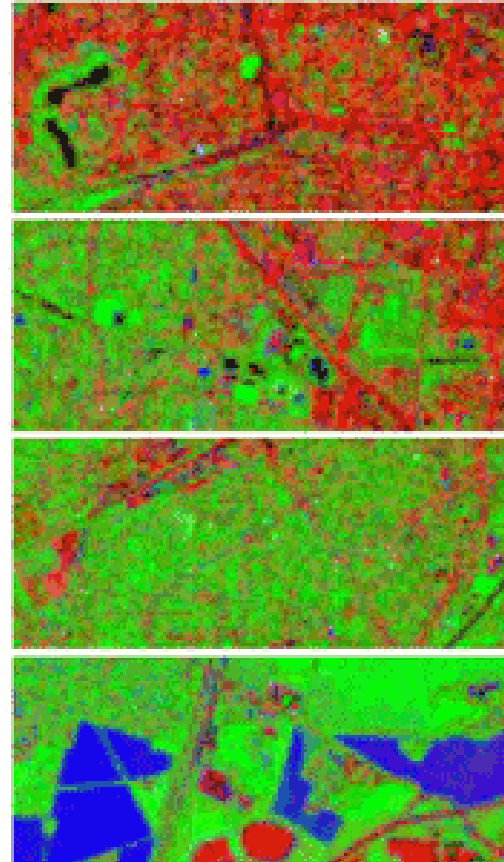
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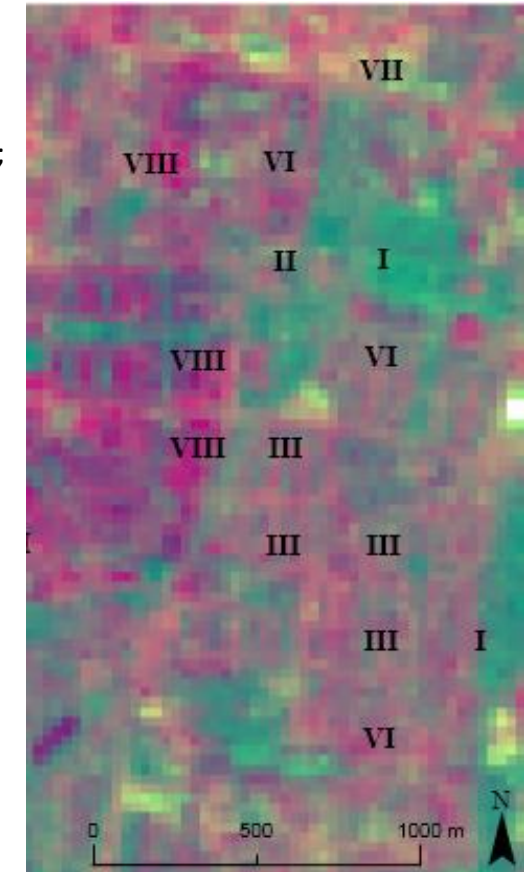
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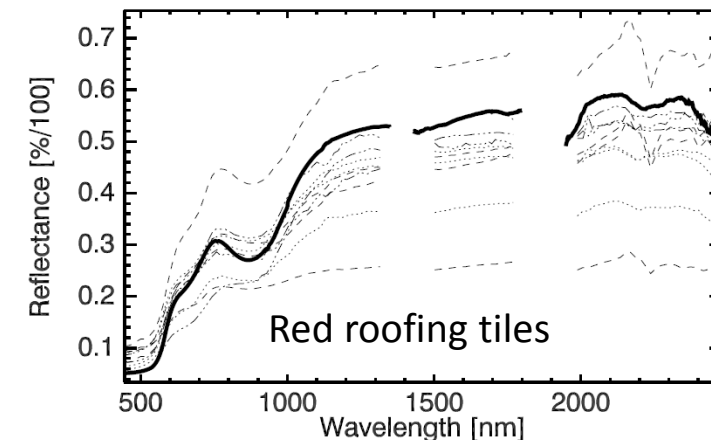
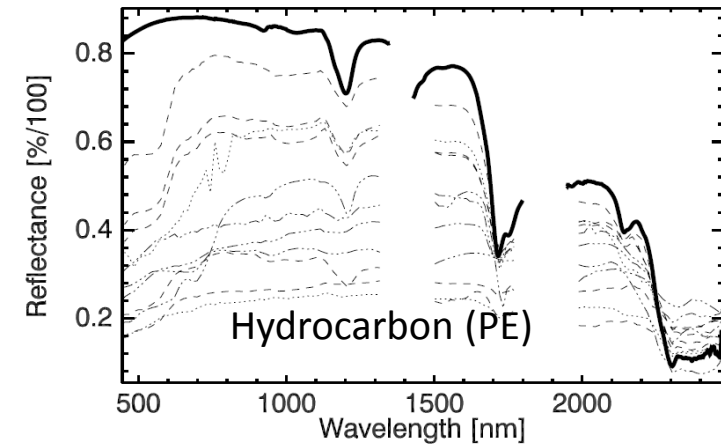


2. What is necessary to enhance urban surface material mapping techniques?

Generic urban spectral library - Challenges

- Large diversity of spectrally different urban surface materials (e.g. color, coating, degradation, ...)
- High intra-class spectral variability
- Image spectra instead of lab/field spectra
- Extracting high-quality reference spectra for model training is time-consuming and costly
- Automated endmember extraction methods require expert knowledge for pixel labelling and detect only spectral extrema of material classes

No universally applicable spectral library available!



Heiden et al.
(2007)

2. What is necessary to enhance urban surface material mapping techniques?

Generic urban spectral library - Requirements

- Globally applicable library of image spectra
- Techniques capable to handle incompleteness of a generic urban library (Jilge et al. 2016, 2017) →
- Community agreed set of metadata
- Pruning - Generate relevant image-specific library subsets (Schaaf et al. 2011; lordache et al. 2014; Degerickx et al. 2017)
- Extraction of multiple endmembers (bundles) per scene component (Somers et al., 2012) to improve unmixing

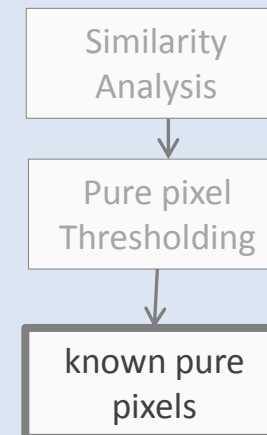
Learning urban image spectral archive (LUISA) (Jilge et al., 2016)

LUISA-A (Archive of image spectra)

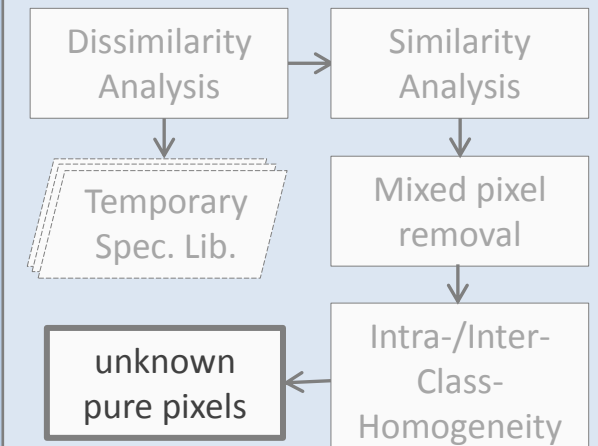
- Generically structured
- Continuously expandable
- Universally applicable:

LUISA-T (Analysis tools)

known pure pixels



unknown pure pixels



2. What is necessary to enhance urban surface material mapping techniques?

GENLIB Project (funded by BELSPO)

GENLIB - DEVELOPING A GENERIC FRAMEWORK FOR LIBRARY BASED MULTI-SITE MAPPING OF URBAN AREAS

A SPINOFF OF THE URBANEARS PROJECT

LEAD: VUB, BRUSSELS (FRANK CANTERS)

PARTNERS: KULEUVEN (BEN SOMERS), DLR (UTA HEIDEN)

- WP1: Development of a **data model** and **metadata scheme** for archiving urban image spectra (DLR)
- WP2: Defining a **conceptual framework for management and use** of a GUL
- WP3: **Proof-of-concept** for multi-site/multi-scale urban mapping



Summary and Outlook

- ✓ Determination of material gradients from a heterogeneous urban environment
- ✓ Mapping urban material compositions from 30 m spatial resolution
- ✓ Urban neighbourhoods are delineated by characteristic material compositions
- ✓ No spectrally pure endmembers are necessary to interpret complex spectral mixtures
- ❖ Transferability of results to other / larger urban areas?
- ❖ Need for training data bases -> Generic urban spectral library
- ❖ New project started – GENLIB -> Input from the community and knowledge exchange is very welcome!





Thank you for your attention!

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